

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 4, 17, 19, and 22 are pending, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended.

Claims 1, 4, 17, 19, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,052,234 (Mukai, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,157,488 (Ishii) and 6,097,547 (Ogata, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, the combination of (a) the layered diffraction optical member having a positive meniscus lens and positive biconvex lens as claimed and (b) the dispersion characteristics as claimed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Mukai, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed combination of features as recited, inter alia, in Claim 1, and that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to attempt to remedy such a deficiency.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this

application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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